(b) if so, what steps Government intend to take to ensure the full and effective utilisation of external funds in the health sector ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Heavy Passenger Load on Khatihar—Barauni Section of North—Eastern Railway

*435. SHRI NARESH YADAV :

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Katihar—Barauni Section of North—Eastern Railway carries heavy passenger load;

(b) whether it is also a fact that passengers travelling in this 180 KM route face a great hardship due to this;

(c) If so, whether Government would start an inter-city or a DMU train for this Section; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no proposal at present.

(d) Does not arise.

News Item regarding HIV cases in India

*436. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Indian Express of 10th April, 1994 under the caption "Maximum HIV cases in India";

(b) whether it is a fact that as stated in the above report India has more HIV infection cases than any other country in the world;

(c) whether it is a fact that if transmission of HIV continues at the same pace, by 2000 AD there will be five million infected people in Delhi and the number of AIDS cases would exceed one million in the country;

(d) if the answers to parts (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, what are the facts in this regard;

(e) what is the number of HIV cases in the country Statewise as on 21st March, 1994;

(f) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to check and prevent the HIV infection; and

(g) what are the details of the AIDS Awareness (Control) programmes Government have so far launched?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No reliable data in this regard is available.

(c) and (d) It is not true that by 2000 AD there would be 5 million HIV-infected people in Delhi. The likely number of AIDS cases by the turn of the century cannot be forecast with certainty.

(e) The cumulative state-wise figures of HIV infections out of total of 20.53 lakh samples screened are as under :

No.	State	Sero-Positive
1.	Andhra Pradesh	143
2.	Assam	5
3.	Bihar	3
4.	Punjab/Chandigarh	165
5.	Delhi	927
6.	Goa	357
7.	Gujarat	336
8.	Haryana	84

No.	State	Sero-Positive
9.	Himachal Pradesh	13
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	10
11.	Karnataka	980
12.	Kerala	180
13.	Madhya Pradesh	64
14.	Maharashtra	5482
15.	Manipur	2138
16.	Mizoram	36
17.	Nagaland	112
18.	Orissa	20
19.	Pondicherry	563
20.	Rajasthan	14
21.	Tamil Nadu	2766
22.	Uttar Pradesh	420
23.	West Bengal	197
24.	Lakshadweep	2
	TOTAL	15017

(f) The strategy to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS consists of generation of awareness among risk-behaviour groups and other people, control of STD blood-safety and rational use of blood and better facilities for surveillance, diagnosis and management of HIV/AIDS cases.

(g) Government have already launched an awareness campaign through mass media channels like Newspapers, Television, Radio, Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity, Directorate of Field Publicity and Song & Drama Division. Simultaneously software packages are being prepared through National Film Development Corporation and an indentified communication agency. A programme to associate Non-Governmental Organisations in the awareness generation and intervention programmes has also been taken up in hand.

Protection to Indian Fishermen

*437. SHRI S .MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1033 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd March, 1994 and state :

(a) whether Indian officials met the Sri Lankan counterparts in Sri Lanka and discussed the problems of Indian fishermen ; and

(b) if so, what measures have been devised to prevent shooting of fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Senior officials of India and Sri Lanka held discussions in Colombo on 8-9 March, 1944 on the problems of fishermen of the two countries, in continuation of the discussions at the level of Foreign Secretaries in Delhi on 15th October, 1993.

(b) During the discussions in Colombo, the two sides agreed to implement effectively the measures devised during Foreign Secretary level talks in October, 1993 to prevent incidents affecting Indian fishermen. These measures relate to (i) precautions to be observed by fishermen ; and (ii) steps to be taken by Sri Lankan Navy to avoid harasment of innocent fishermen.

The two sides agreed to continue the process of bilateral discussions of this issue.

News-Items regarding "Park Cheetals left to fend for themselves"

*438. SHRI SOM PAL :
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 11th March, 1994 under caption "Park Cheetals left to fend for themselves" ;

(b) if so, what action has been taken to save these innocent animals ; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have seen the